

said of others who in their haste to get ahead of someone else, have burdened our books with endless synonymy, by describing from insufficient material. Would science lose much if time were taken by observers to gather suitable material before describing a bird on the chance of its being new? I do not say that this is entirely practicable, but I do say that when a man thinks that specimens proving doubtful relationships may be obtained in any given locality, he should at least endeavor to obtain them. If time or means fail, it is his misfortune, although the adage "Where there's a will there's a way," still has force.

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A LIST OF BIRDS TAKEN AND OBSERVED IN  
CUBA AND THE BAHAMA ISLANDS,  
DURING MARCH AND APRIL, 1891.

BY CHARLES B. CORY.

DURING the past winter the writer visited Cuba and several of the Bahama Islands, and although nothing new was discovered in the way of birds or mammals, yet a list of the species noted is useful in studying the geographical distribution of insular forms, as well as being likely to add to our knowledge of the line of flight and season of migration of many of our North American species.

It is not intended to make this article more than a very condensed account of the route travelled and the different place visited, while giving a list of the species of birds observed and taken during the trip.

In a city like Havana, Cuba, the markets are always attractive from a naturalist's standpoint, as there one finds various kinds of birds, fish, and often mammals exposed for sale. Many birds are trapped and brought in alive, either in cages or tied together by their legs in bunches. Among the birds offered for sale in the Havana market we observed Cuban Quails (*Colinus cubanensis*), Doves (*Zenaida zenaida*), Cuban Meadow-larks (*Sturnella hippocrepis*), Orioles (*Icterus hypomelas*), and Guinea hens. There were also several cages of Blue-headed Quail Doves

(*Sturnanus cyanocephala*), the latter seeming to be common, as they were nearly always to be found in the markets.

In crossing the harbor to take the train for Cienfuegos, we saw a number of Brown Pelicans and Buzzards flying about the bay, mostly near the entrance of the harbor, in the vicinity of Moro Castle.

From Havana to Cienfuegos by rail is a ride of about eleven hours, and the country through which the road passes is pretty and fertile. To our good fortune, a heavy rain had fallen during the night, so that we were not troubled with dust, which is usually the great objection to this ride.

Much of the land along the road is cleared and cultivated, the fields broken here and there by clumps of royal palms and cocoanut trees, or by extensive plantations of sugar cane, with the picturesque houses of the planters, and the tall chimneys of the sugar works standing out clearly in the distance. Along the road Buzzards, Anis (*Crotophaga ani*), Cuban Meadow-larks and Sparrow Hawks were common. Numerous small birds were flitting about the hedges of cacti and pineapple plants, and once, while stopping at a station, two Finches (*Euthēia lepida*), came within a few feet of the car window, lighting on a banana tree, which grew so close to the track that its leaves touched the cars. At San Domingo, a station where the passengers for Cienfuegos changed cars, we observed a number of Swifts, *Cypselus phœnicobius* (Gosse), flying about the houses, and a Ground Dove (*Columbigallina passerina*) flew from a field and lit for a moment near the platform. The market in Cienfuegos is not attractive, and very few birds are offered for sale there. The only species observed, during two visits, were the Oriole (*Icterus hypomelas*), a Finch (*Euthēia lepida*), and some Cuban Parrots. From Cienfuegos to Santiago de Cuba is a run of some thirty hours by steamer, much of the time in sight of land.

In Santiago de Cuba, with its wonderful river-like harbor and its quaint, many colored houses, we found a most interesting city, but very little in the way of birds to repay our getting up at day-break to explore its market. The only birds offered for sale were a few which had been trapped alive, and included Cuban Parrots, several Black Finches (*Melopyrrha nigra*), and a pair of Nonpareils. Near the entrance of the harbor a pair of Tropic Birds (*Phaethon flavirostris*) were flying about or floating on the water.

While in Cuba I recorded the following species:—

Phaëthon flavirostris <i>Brandt.</i> ✓	Ceryle alcyon ( <i>Linn.</i> ) ✓
Ardea egretta <i>Gmel.</i> ✓	Cypselus phænicobius ( <i>Gosse.</i> ) ✓
Colinus cubanensis ( <i>Gould.</i> ) ✓	Sturnella hippocrepis <i>Wagl.</i> ✓
Columbigallina passerina ( <i>Linn.</i> ) ✓	Euethia lepida <i>Facq.</i> ✓
Cathartes aura ( <i>Linn.</i> ) ✓	Passerina ciris ( <i>Linn.</i> ) ✓
Catharista atrata ( <i>Bartr.</i> ) ✓	Progne dominicensis ( <i>Gmel.</i> ) ✓
Falco sparveroides <i>Vig.</i> ✓	Mimus polyglottus orpheus ( <i>Linn.</i> ) ✓
Crotophaga ani <i>Linn.</i> ✓	

#### NEW PROVIDENCE, BAHAMAS.

From Cuba we went to Nassau, New Providence, Bahama Islands, and spent two weeks, collecting and studying the birds of that Island. Having visited Nassau a number of times, and knowing the ground well, we were able to do considerable work during the short time we were there.

The following species were collected between March 14 and April 2:—

Podilymbus podiceps ( <i>Linn.</i> ).	Loxigilla violacea ( <i>Linn.</i> ).
Aythya affinis ( <i>Eyton.</i> ).	Euethia bicolor ( <i>Linn.</i> ).
Ardea herodias <i>Linn.</i>	Spindalis zena ( <i>Linn.</i> ).
Rallus coryi <i>Maynard.*</i>	Callichelidon cyaneoviridis <i>Bryant.</i>
Gallinula galeata ( <i>Licht.</i> ).	Ampelis cedrorum ( <i>Vicill.</i> )
Colinus virginianus ( <i>Linn.</i> ).	Vireo crassirostris ( <i>Bryant.</i> ).
Columbigallina passerina ( <i>Linn.</i> ).	Cœreba bahamensis ( <i>Reich.</i> ).
Strix pratincola ( <i>Bonap.</i> ).	Mniotilta varia ( <i>Linn.</i> ).
Crotophaga ani <i>Linn.</i>	Dendroica discolor ( <i>Vicill.</i> ).
Coccyzus minor maynardi <i>Ridgw.</i>	Dendroica coronata ( <i>Linn.</i> ).
Saurothera bahamensis ( <i>Bryant.</i> ).	Dendroica palmarum ( <i>Gmel.</i> ).
Ceryle alcyon ( <i>Linn.</i> ).	Dendroica tigrina ( <i>Gmel.</i> ). †
Sphyrapicus varius ( <i>Linn.</i> ).	Geothlypis trichas ( <i>Linn.</i> ).
Doricha evelynæ ( <i>Bourc.</i> ).	Setophaga ruticilla ( <i>Linn.</i> ). ‡
Contopus bahamensis <i>Bryant.</i>	Seiurus noveboracensis ( <i>Linn.</i> ).
Myiarchus sagræ <i>Gundl.</i>	Seiurus aurocapillus ( <i>Linn.</i> ).
Pitangus bahamensis <i>Bryant.</i>	Galeoscoptes carolinensis ( <i>Linn.</i> ).
	Mimocichla plumbea ( <i>Linn.</i> ).

\* An adult female of this form was killed by the writer in a mangrove swamp near Nassau. When shot it was carrying a crab in its beak. This bird is very much lighter colored than any I have seen from Andros or the Berry Islands. Another was seen a few days afterwards, but escaped.

† This species was first observed March 19, and became common after March 23.

‡ First seen March 27, one bird shot March 29; a number seen April 1.

## BERRY ISLANDS.

Procuring a schooner at Nassau, we sailed to the Berry Islands, distant about fifty-eight miles to the northwest. Some of these Islands are well wooded, in many places being covered with a thick growth of good sized trees, composed principally of lignum vitæ (*Guaiacum sanctum* L.) and what is known as the gumbo (*Obelmoschus esculentus*), and 'mastic' trees (*Bursera gummi-fera* L.). We spent a week on the Berry Islands and then proceeded to Biminis, leaving one of our collectors — Mr. Cyrus S. Winch — on the Islands to continue the work there. We procured the following species, all of which were taken between April 3 and April 20.

<i>Sterna maxima</i> (Bodd.).	<i>Callichelidon cyaneoviridis</i> Bryant.
<i>Pelecanus fuscus</i> Linn.	<i>Ampelis cedrorum</i> (Vicill.).
<i>Fregata aquila</i> (Linn.).	<i>Vireo crassirostris</i> Bryant.
<i>Ardea herodias</i> Linn.	<i>Cœreba bahamensis</i> (Reich.).
<i>Ardea virescens</i> Linn.	<i>Mniotilta varia</i> (Linn.).
<i>Ardea tricolor ruficollis</i> (Gosse).	<i>Compothlypis americana</i> (Linn.).
<i>Nycticorax violaceus</i> (Linn.).	<i>Dendroica tigrina</i> (Gmel.).
<i>Rallus coryi</i> Maynard.*	<i>Dendroica coronata</i> (Linn.).
<i>Actitis macularia</i> (Linn.).	<i>Dendroica dominica</i> (Linn.).
<i>Columbigallina passerina</i> (Linn.).	<i>Dendroica kirtlandi</i> Baird.†
<i>Columba lenocephala</i> Linn.	<i>Dendroica palmarum</i> (Gmel.).
<i>Crotophaga ani</i> Linn.	<i>Dendroica discolor</i> (Vicill.).
<i>Coccyzus minor maynardi</i> Ridgw.	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i> (Linn.).
<i>Ceryle alcyon</i> (Linn.).	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i> (Linn.).
<i>Doricha evelynæ</i> (Bourc.).	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i> (Linn.).
<i>Myiarchus sagræ</i> Gundl.	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i> (Gmel.).
<i>Agelaius phœniceus bryanti</i> Ridgw.	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i> (Vicill.).
<i>Loxigilla violacea</i> (Linn.).	<i>Galeoscoptes carolinensis</i> (Linn.).
<i>Euethia bicolor</i> (Linn.).	<i>Mimus polyglottos orpheus</i> (L.).
<i>Passerina ciris</i> (Linn.).	<i>Mimus gundlachi</i> Cab.
<i>Spindalis zena</i> (Linn.).	

## BIMINI ISLANDS, BAHAMAS.

The Bimini Islands are an isolated group about midway between Florida and Nassau, situated on the edge of the Gulf

\* Five specimens of this interesting bird were taken on the Berry Islands. They were not uncommon, but were shy and difficult to find. They rarely attempt to fly, but run swiftly, dodging in and out among the mangrove roots.

† This species is not uncommon in the Bahamas. We procured three examples at the Berry Islands, and my collector also obtained specimens at Abaco and the Caicos Islands.

Stream, and having no harbor that vessels drawing more than seven feet of water can enter. We stopped here to meet Mr. Charles Washburn, one of my collectors, who had been staying on the Islands for about three weeks. Very few resident species were obtained, but it is more than probable that a number of Bahama forms occur there which were not observed by us, as the time spent on these Islands was much too short to make anything like a thorough investigation.

<i>Sterna maxima</i> <i>Bodd.</i>	<i>Vireo crassirostris</i> <i>Bryant.</i>
<i>Pelecanus fuscus</i> <i>Linn.</i>	<i>Vireo altiloquus barbatulus</i> ( <i>Cab.</i> ).
<i>Fregata aquila</i> ( <i>Linn.</i> ).	<i>Cœreba bahamensis</i> ( <i>Reich.</i> ).
<i>Ardea herodias</i> <i>Linn.</i>	<i>Mniotilta varia</i> ( <i>Linn.</i> ).
<i>Ardea virescens bahamensis</i> ( <i>Brewster.</i> ).	<i>Helinaia swainsoni</i> <i>Aud.</i>
<i>Ægialitis vocifera</i> ( <i>Linn.</i> ).	<i>Compsothlypis americana</i> ( <i>Linn.</i> ).
<i>Columbigallina passerina</i> ( <i>Linn.</i> ).	<i>Dendroica tigrina</i> ( <i>Gmel.</i> ).
<i>Columba leucocephala</i> <i>Linn.</i>	<i>Dendroica coronata</i> ( <i>Linn.</i> ).
<i>Crotophaga ani</i> <i>Linn.</i>	<i>Dendroica dominica</i> ( <i>Linn.</i> ).
<i>Ceryle alcyon</i> ( <i>Linn.</i> ).	<i>Dendroica palmarum</i> ( <i>Gmel.</i> ).
<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i> ( <i>Linn.</i> ).	<i>Dendroica discolor</i> ( <i>Vieill.</i> ).
<i>Doricha evelynæ</i> ( <i>Bourc.</i> ).	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i> ( <i>Linn.</i> ).
<i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i> ( <i>Gmel.</i> ).	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i> ( <i>Linn.</i> ).
<i>Agelaius phœniceus bryanti</i> <i>Ridgw.</i>	<i>Sciurus motacilla</i> ( <i>Vieill.</i> ).
<i>Euethia bicolor</i> ( <i>Linn.</i> ).	<i>Sciurus aurocapillus</i> ( <i>Linn.</i> ).
<i>Ammodramus savannarum passerinus</i> ( <i>Wils.</i> ).	<i>Polioptila cœrulea</i> ( <i>Linn.</i> ).
	<i>Galeoscoptes carolinensis</i> ( <i>Linn.</i> ).
	<i>Mimus polyglottos orpheus</i> ( <i>Linn.</i> ).

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LIST OF THE BIRDS COLLECTED BY C. L. WINCH  
IN THE CAICOS ISLANDS AND INAGUA, BA-  
HAMAS, DURING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY,  
AND IN ABACO, IN MARCH, 1891.

BY CHARLES B. CORY.

CAICOS ISLANDS.

*Dafla bahamensis* (*Linn.*). — Not uncommon; breeds on the Caicos Islands.

*Aythya affinis* (*Eyton.*)

*Ardea rufescens* *Bodd.*.—Several specimens of both the white and colored plumage of this species.